

Message Text

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43/46

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 SSO-00 /014 W

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O R 021030Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4181

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

MSG BN HQ ARLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1424

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (T E X T)

ADDIS FOR RSO

NAIROBI FOR CO CO "FZ AND RSS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, MILI, SO, US

SUBJECT: GSDR "STRONGLY URGES" WITHDRAWAL OF MSG IVERSON

REF: A) MOGADISCIO 1409, B) STATE 215807

SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) IN NOTE DATED SEPTEMBER 2 CALLS ON EMBASSY TO "EFFECT MR. IVERSON'S EARLY DEPARTURE" FROM SOMALIA. EMBASSY PLANS TO RESPOND SEPTEMBER 5 WITH REITERATION AMBASSADOR'S AUGUST 31 REJECTION OF VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL BY US. WE ASSUME THIS WILL PROVOKE MB NOTE FORMALLY PING'ING IVERSON. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF NOTE RECEIVED FROM MFA ON SEPTEMBER 2: (COMPLIMENTARY OPENING) QUTE: AND WITH REFERENCE TO THE EMBASSY CORRESPONDENCE RESTING WITH NOTE NO. 177 DATED 29TH AUGUST, 1976, HAS THE HONOUR TO INFORM THE LATTER OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO THE TEMPORARY DETENTION OF MR. ROBERT W. IVERSON, MARINE GUARD AT THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

AT 1 A.M. AUGUST 27, 1976, MR. ROBERT WAYNE IVERSON

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ACCOMPANIED BY MISS MARTHA JOMHILD SCHELLENBERGEN (SIC) FORCED

THEIR WAY INTO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE SOMALI NATIONAL SECURITY SERVICE IN A RED VOLKSWAGON REGISTRATION NUMBER "SOMALIA 19374" DISREGRADING THE GUARD'S CALL TO HALT.

MR. IVERSON AND HIS COMPANION THEN DROVE AROUND THE NSS COMPOUND WHILE A SECURITY CAR WENT IN SEARCH AFTER THEM. UPON SPOTTING THE PURSUING VEHICLE THE INTRUDER LEFT THE COMPOUND AT HIGH SPEED AGAIN IGNORING THE GUARD'S ORDERS TO HALT; THE SCAPE (SIC) ATTEMPT WAS FOILED SOON AFTER BY THE PURSUING SECURITY OFFICIALS.

UPON APPREHENSION MR. IVERSON HAD NO DOCUMENTS ON HIS PERSON TO PROVE HIS IDENTITY. MOREOVER, HE ASSUMED TWO DIFFERENT NAMES IN A DELIBERATE EFFORT AT MISLEADING THE OFFICIALS AND COVERING UP HIS TRUE IDENTITY.

WHILE TAKING FULL COGNIZANCE OF THE NATURE AND CIRCUMSTANCE OF THIS INCIDENT AND IN AWARENESS OF ITS LIKELY MOTIVATIONS, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, IN LINE WITH THE MUTUALLY EXPRESSED DESIRE OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE EFFORTS LIKELY TO LEAD TO CLOSER CO-OPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES, STRONGLY URGES THE ESTEEMED EMBASSY TO EFFECT MR. IVERSON'S EARLY DEPARTURE FROM THE TERRITORY OF THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE ANY CAUSE FOR MISUNDERSTANDING OVER THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE. END QUOTE (COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE)

2. COMMENT AND ACTION REQUEST: WE READ THIS AS SOMETHING LESS THAN PNG DECLARATION, BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT GSDR DOES INTEND TO FORCE IVERSON'S DEPARTURE. EMBASSY PLANS TO REPLY TO MFA DEMARCHE ON SEPTEMBER 5 WITH REITERATION OF AMBASSADOR LOUGHREN'S REJECTION OF MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL ABDURAHMAN JAMA BARRE'S REQUEST OF AUGUST 31 THAT IVERSON BE WITHDRAWN VOLUNTARILY, REFUTING, WHERE NECESSARY, THE MINISTRY'S VERSION OF EVENTS SURROUNDING THE CASE AND UNDERSCORING OUR CONCERN WITH THE GSDR'S NON-ADHERENCE TO ACCEPTED STANDARDS IN ITS TREATMENT OF DIPLOMATS ASSIGNED TO SOMALIA, I.E., HOLDING IVERSON INCOMMUNICADO FOR 28 HOURS. WHILE WE ARE UNDER NO ILLUSION THAT FIRM LANGUAGE ON OUR PART WILL REVERSE GSDR DECISION, WE BELIEVE IT USEFUL THAT THE GSDR KNOW THAT USG DOES NOT VIEW CONFIDENTIAL

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LIGHTLY ARBITRARY TREATMENT OF ITS DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL. IT IS LIKELY THAT FORMAL PNG NOTICE WILL FOLLOW OUR RESPONSE BY A FEW DAYS. DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON AND CONCURRENCE IN EMBASSY'S PLANNED RESPONSE ARE REQUESTED NIACT IMMEDIATE, AS WELL AS A REPORT ON ANY DEPARTMENTAL CONTACT WITH AMBASSADOR ADDOU. END COMMENT AND ACTION REQUEST.

3. IN MEANTIME, IVERSON HAS BEEN CONFINED TO THE KM-7 COMPOUND

FOR HIS AND THE EMBASSY'S PROTECTION, EXCEPT DURING HIS NORMAL
DUTY HOURS.
JACOBS

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